

REMARKS

Contemporaneously with the present response, Applicants have filed a Request for a Continuation Application (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. With the present response, Applicants propose to amend claims 1-7 and 9-20 and to add new claims 21-30. The new claims and amendments are supported by, e.g., FIGS. 1 and 2 and associated text (page 6, line 28 to page 16, line 10) of Applicants' specification.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Axberg et al. (U.S. 6,009,466), and claims 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Axberg in view of the publication "SSA: A High Performance Interface for Unparalleled Connectivity," by Wilson. These rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that Axberg does not disclose at least the limitations in the originally filed independent claims 1, 9 and 15 generally of inhibiting said initiator from issuing said request, sending data to said initiator describing a desired state of said first port, and enabling said initiator to issue a request for said first port to assume said desired state.

As described in more detail in the previously filed Office Action response, which Applicants incorporate herein by reference, Applicants read Axberg as disclosing a "network configuration program" that assists users in planning the configuration of network devices in an information processing network. See Abstract of Axberg. Applicants respectfully submit that the network configuration program in Axberg never performs interactions with an initiator in a computer network. In fact, the network configuration program in Axberg does not configure any device, including initiators, actually residing in a physically connected network. Furthermore, even if Axberg can be read to configure devices residing in a physically connected network, there is no disclosure in Axberg at least of the limitations in the originally filed claims generally of inhibiting said initiator from issuing said request, sending data to said initiator describing a

desired state of said first port, and enabling said initiator to issue a request for said first port to assume said desired state.

Nonetheless, Applicants have also performed clarifying amendments to independent claims 1, 9, and 15. In a telephone conference on Thursday, May 20, the Examiner recommended that clarifying amendments be added to the claims. Applicants have now amended claims 1, 9, and 15 to clarify that these techniques are, e.g., performed by a controller on a computer storage network, that certain of the devices in the network are connected serially through ports, and that data is sent to an initiator, where the data describes a desired state for selected ports in a number of devices.

It is respectfully submitted that Axberg does not disclose, in the amended independent claims and as an example, that data is sent to an initiator in a serial storage architecture computer network, where the data describes a desired state for selected ports in a number of devices.

Therefore, for at least the reasons given above, independent claims 1, 9, and 15 are not anticipated by Axberg. In that claims 1, 9, and 15 are not anticipated by Axberg, and should be found to be allowable over Axberg, then all claims that depend from claims 1, 9, and 15 are also allowable over Axberg, whether considered alone or with the Wilson SSA-related publication.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the expressed rejections, and to allow claims 1-20 as now clarified by amendment above.

Applicants also respectfully submit that new claims 21-30 are patentable over the cited art.



S. No. 09/617,607
Art Unit: 2142

Respectfully submitted:

Robert J. Mauri

Reg. No.: 41,180

6/20/05

Date

Customer No.: 29683

HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212

Telephone: (203)925-9400
Facsimile: (203)944-0245
email: rmauri@hspatent.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 20, 2005

Date

Name of Person Making Deposit